genus Euphorbia. Dr. H. W. Harkness gives a list of the fungi collected, among which is a new Puccinia. Over 100 new species already described from a single season's collecting, with many species remaining undetermined, surely speaks well for the botanical riches of Lower California.

In the last numbers (37 and 38) of Engler & Prantl's *Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* several orders are presented by Dr. O. Drude, chiefly the Ericaceæ. We note the following changes in North American forms as given in Gray's Synoptical Flora. Clethra is made the type of a separate order, Clethraceæ. Pyrolaceæ are again kept apart in a distinct order, which includes the tribe Pyroleæ and the suborder Monotropeæ of the Synoptical Flora, Moneses being included in Pyrola. In the order Ericaceæ, Phyllodoce of Salisbury is again separated generically from Bryanthus; Lyonia Nutt. is restored as a genus and made to include Cassandra and the section Eubotrys of Leucothoe; Arctous, one of Gray's sections of Arctostaphylos, is made a genus, and contains our Arctostaphylos alpina.

Dr. Oliver R. Willis has just revised Wood's "Lessons in Botany." In these days of laboratories and microscopes, even in high schools, there is a demand for elementary instruction in plant tissues, as well as for elementary physiology. The older text-books, in order to keep in the market, must meet this demand, and the present edition of the well-known text-book mentioned above has this in view. We are glad to see that the editor emphasizes the necessity of laboratory work, and presents the text-book merely as a full and illustrated catalogue of things that can be seen in the study of the plants themselves. The advantage of such change in our text-books is not only that it meets a demand, but helps to create one.

The eighth part of the Muscologia Gallica[1] has come from the author and publisher. It includes the genera Webera with 15 species, Bryum with 39, and 9 species of Mnium. The plates, however, do not quite complete the genus Bryum. The author is entirely conservative in regard to nomenclature, and follows Schimper almost without change in the entire work thus far. This is convenient, but hardly defensible. In the two difficult genera which are treated in this part Mr. Husnot has reduced a number of species to the rank of varieties.

OPEN LETTERS.

Once more about the weeds.

While not unmindful of the substantial aid that the botanists of the country have rendered me in the study of our weed pests, the writer, in view of the task imposed by the Biological section of the A. A. A. S. at its Toronto meeting, namely, the preparation of a paper upon "The Mi-

[1] Husnot, T.—Muscologia Gallica, descriptions et figures des mousses de France et des contrées voisines. 8°, pp. 225–256, pl. LXI–LXVIII. Cahan (par Athis, Orne); the author, 1889. 5 fr.

gration of our Weeds," begs another favor of the readers of the GAZETTE. It is to kindly report to the undersigned the advent (or disappearance) of any weed in their section of the country within the past five, ten or more years, and if possible the method by means of which the species became introduced (or eliminated). In the preparation of such a paper it is not enough to go to the books. The personal observations of the many active botanists of to-day are necessary in order to bring the treatment down to date. With such assistance there will be no excuse if the compiler fails to present matter of permanent value to both the growing of crops and botanical science.—BYRON D. HALSTED, *New Brunswick, N. J.*

Nostoc pruniforme.

I notice in the November GAZETTE (p. 291) that Professor C. B. Atwell makes a singular remark on Nostoc pruniforme with reference to my Fresh Water Algæ, saying that when my volume appeared this nostoc was not mentioned. The fact is, more is said of this species than of any other. Prof. Atwell ought to re-read page 284 and the lower half of page 279.

FRANCIS WOLLE.

Bethlehem, Penn.

Ribes aureum.

In the BOTANICAL GAZETTE for November is a note by Mr. F. W. Anderson on the fruit of this species.

Here, in Eastern Oregon, the two forms with the yellow and black fruits are found. The former is very abundant, the latter more rare. "Yellowish, turning blackish," certainly does not apply to our forms any more than it does to those mentioned by Mr. Anderson as found in Montana.

In all the books, so far as I have seen, the leaves are said to be "convolute in the bud." I have examined many of the yellow-fruited form and find them invariably involute in the bud. The black-fruited form I have never had opportunity to examine in this respect.

Union, Oregon.

WM. C. CUSICK.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE RARE *Croton Alabamensis*, E. A. Smith, is described and illustrated in *Garden and Forest* (Dec. 11).

GERALD MCCARTHY, of the North Carolina Experiment Station, is preparing a historical paper on Carolina botany, and desires to purchase or borrow authentic portraits of the elder Michaux, Pursh, Elliot and Walter.

ACTA HORTI PETROPOLITANI, vol. x. part 2 (1889) contains several articles dealing with the Siberian flora, and hence of interest to North American botanists. A list of plants collected by Slowzow in the Kirghis desert, and another one of the plants of N. E. Siberia, represent some of the last work of the late E. R. von Trautvetter. C. Winkler describes 20 new Compositæ from Turkestan, all of the genus Cousinia. F. ab Herder writes of the apetalous plants of the Raddean collection of Eastern Siberia, the present part containing the Chenopodiaceæ and Amarantaceæ. E. Regel gives a biographical sketch of Trautvetter, with portrait, and C. T. Maximowicz one of N. M. Przewalski, also with portrait.